

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the support of this body for a continuing resolution for the District of Columbia, which will come before this body this afternoon.

Members will shake their heads when they see it, for if we were to ask what is the least we could do to carry out our responsibilities to the Nation's Capital, this would be it. Allow the District to spend its own money for a little more than a week and get no part of its Federal payment.

Mr. Speaker, this comes close to humiliation for the 600,000 people I represent, who are not allowed any access to their Federal payment, even though they are second per capita in Federal income taxes in this country.

But a worse humiliation would be the total catastrophe of a second shutdown of the District on its own money. There have been several agreements that would have broken this impasse, but each time some person or the other simply turned over the tables.

Our appropriation has been delayed for 3 months now. No city can survive this way. It has delayed reform, taken it off the table and forced the District into crisis management.

Today's continuing resolution keeps the city's heart beating, but it breaks the heart of my 600,000 good residents.

PRESIDENT HAS ALREADY AGREED TO PRECONDITIONS IN BUDGET DEBATE

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I do not know if you watched the news shows this weekend, but the drumbeat has been from the Chief of Staff, Leon Panetta, that the President would meet with leaders of Congress provided that there are no preconditions. No preconditions. No preconditions. It is a mantra he has been repeating and he has been beating.

Mr. Speaker, 29 days ago the President signed a piece of paper that, in fact, did have one single precondition. It was very simple. It said that he agreed the President and the Congress should enact legislation in the first session, that ends at the end of December, to achieve a balanced budget not later than the fiscal year 2002. As estimated by whom? By the Congressional Budget Office.

That is the only precondition, but it is a very real precondition and it is an important precondition. How can the President now be saying that he is not going to even meet, he will not even talk unless there are no preconditions. Obviously, what the President has decided, what the Chief of Staff has decided, is that they are going to take the lowest road they possibly can and demagogue this right through Christmas.

CONGRESS SHOULD DEAL WITH THE REAL PROBLEMS FACING AMERICA

(Mr. HINCHEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, first of all, with regard to what the previous speaker said, there were other preconditions. The President agreed to a balanced budget so long as that balanced budget protected Social Security, protected Medicare, protected education, and protected the environment.

Mr. Speaker, the budget that these people want to pass on this side of the House does none of that. But what about that resolution that was passed yesterday? It is a nonbinding resolution that says that we should balanced the budget in 7 years. What is the validity of that number? None whatsoever. The Speaker dreamed it up. It might as well have been 5 or 9 years.

Furthermore, there will be 3 Congresses here between now and the year 2002. Neither of those 3 Congresses will be bound by what this Congress has done. They will have to deal with the economic realities of the situation. What will those economic realities be? If you believe the Congressional Budget Office numbers, which is what that resolution said, the economic realities will be this: A recession; perhaps a deep and serious one.

Let us be serious here. Let us deal with the real problems facing the people of this country. It is the economic problems. It is the creation of more jobs and a sound economic budget; not the one that was passed here by this majority.

PRESIDENT SHOULD DO WHAT ALL AMERICANS DO: BALANCE THE BUDGET

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed in a very bipartisan fashion, with many Democrats, a sense of the Congress resolution to balance the budget. Earlier this year, we passed a balanced budget amendment with 300 votes.

Now, apparently, Democrats too want a balanced budget. If there is one thing that the American people understand, it is balancing the budget, because they balance their budget year in and year out. They cannot understand why we cannot get our act together.

Mr. Speaker, there is really only one person standing in the way of all of this. It is not the Democrats, because they are with us. It is not the Republicans, because we have got a balanced budget that we sent to the President. So, we ask the President to join with us; join with his Democrat colleagues; join with us and do what all Americans

do. Balance the budget. Balance the Federal budget. End waste. Do what all Americans do. Make the ledger sheet balanced, and then we can move on to other important issues.

DO WE CUT TAXES OR DO WE HELP SENIOR CITIZENS AND CHILDREN

(Mr. GEJDENSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, what is clear here is that the Republicans are intentionally avoiding the issue at hand. We can do that with the Senate. Senator DOLE and Senator DOMENICI are ready for an agreement that will keep the Government running while we debate a very serious issue, whether or not 60 percent of a \$245 billion tax cut goes to people who make over \$200,000 a year or whether we cut \$270 billion from the anticipated cost of Medicare. That is the only debate here.

Before we shut the Government down because the Speaker got a bad seat. Now we are shutting the Government down because the Speaker has worse poll numbers than Richard Nixon when he left office.

Let us not take out the Speaker's bad seat or bad poll numbers on the American people. Let us do what previous Congresses did when they were responsible, even when they disagreed with each other. They kept the Government running, and they had that debate. The debate is pretty basic: Do we cut taxes by \$245 billion or do we help protect seniors and children?

WE NEED A BUDGET THAT BALANCES IN GOOD TIME BUT PROTECTS THE ECONOMY

(Mr. NADLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have shut down the Government because they claim that we have to have a balanced budget in 7 years based on figures provided by the Congressional Budget Office—and only the Congressional Budget Office.

Republicans have been leading many Americans to believe that if we adopt their balanced budget plan, interest rates will drop, there will be more jobs, and economic conditions for families will improve significantly.

But according to that same Congressional Budget Office, after a few years under the Republican plan, unemployment will rise and economic growth will drop.

You don't have to be an economist to know that that's called a recession.

So the Republicans are telling us that they have to shut down the Government because President Clinton won't agree to their 7-year plan for economic hardship.

We must continue to fight this plan.